(b) *Rice*: The allocations of rice to the various States/Union Territories including Kerala have been rationalised, keeping in view various factors such as the overall availability of stocks in the Central pool, relative needs of various States, availability in the open market, trends in offtake etc.

Palmolein: The allocations of imported edible oils to State Governments/Union Territories under PDS is adjusted according to availability and prices of edible oils in the open market.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has not been found possible to increase these allocations.

Conducting of LTC Tours by I.T.D.C.

3348. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC has been conducting LTC Tours for sometime on commission basis in cooperation with private travel agencies which are mostly unapproved, unregistered and contrary to the guidelines issued by Government for this purpose;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the terms of running such LTC tours during 1986-87 by ITDC from its different stations throughout the country;

(c) the details of the stations from where the LTC Tours were organised by ITDC alongwith the buses hired by ITDC from the different Transport Agencies and *vice-versa* throughout the country together with the reasons for not conducting the LTC tours from Delhi where most of the Government offices are located; and

(d) whether any complaint was received about the fraudulent LTC Tours under the present arrangements, if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken to check such irregularities and fixing up the responsibility on the erring officials, and the action taken, if any, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) ITDC has been conducting LTC tours. In the event of non-availability of their own coaches, the same were hired by them from other transport operators with registered vehicles on ITDC tariff minus the Commission. During 1986-87 nearly 250 conducted tours were operated from Calcutta, Varanasi, Agra, Patna, Jaipur, Gwalior, Bombay, Bangalore and Delhi. ITDC did not give its coaches to any private operators on hire.

(d) In 1987 some complaints were received making allegations of collusion between ITDC officials and private tour operators at Agra for conducting fradulent tours. The matter was investigated by the Vigilance Division of the Corporation. For making detailed investigations, the matter has been referred to the CBI and some of the officials have been transferred.

Corruption Comes against ITDC Officials

3349. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pertaining to ITDC officials having instances of corruption, inefficiency, mis-use of official position, nepotism, favouritism, red-tapism etc. which have been brought to the notice of Government/Management of ITDC by Members of Parliament/Trade Unions during the Seventh Five Year Plan Period upto December, 1987; and

(b) the number of cases referred to CBI and also those dealt with by ITDC internally during the above period with brief summary of those cases where complaints/reports have been found without much substance/false and also those where action have been taken against the defaulting officials as on 31st December, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) 22 complaints made by the Members of

Parliament|Trade Unions against ITDC officials on various counts during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 (upto Dec. 87) were|are being investigated. A brief summary of these cases is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix (XLV, Annexure No. 118)].

Telecasting of Serial "Honi Anhoni"

3350. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Rationalist Association striving to promote scientific temper and spirit of inquiry has demanded the resignation of some of the top officers of Doordarshan for allowing the telecast of superstition-based serial "Honi Anhoni";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the above serial was initially approved for 10.20 P.M. slot because of superstition-based stories; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for change of time-slot of this serial?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) (a) and (b) Government has seen Press Reports to this effect. However, no such demand appears to have been received from this organisation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Achievements of High Powered Committee in ITDC

3351. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of rupees have been spent on the boarding, lodging, local conveyance, air-travels, TA|DA etc. by the members of the High Powered Committee of ITDC when it visited a number of its properties since its inception;

(b) if so, the details of the ITDC properties|units so visited till date during the last three years and the amount spent for and on behalf of this committee in each unit|Corporate Office, date-wise;

(c) whether the High Powered Committee has submitted the report pertaining to each property so visited with brief summary of each report submitted by the committee and action taken, if any, by the agency individual concerned, on each of its recommendation, unitwise; and

(d) the details of the officials made responsible at the Corporate Office of ITDC in order to see that the recommendations as stipulated in each Report are implemented forthwith and action taken against the defaulting official, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) With a view to improving their operational efficiency and Profitability ITDC constituted a High Powered Committee which inspected its various Hotel units. Expenditure permissible under the rules has been incurred on the boarding, lodging, TA|DA etc. of the members.

(b) The requisite information is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) After inspection of each hotel, the Committee submitted its report which covers recommendations on various areas *viz* Hotel Operations Marketing, Engineering, Personnel, Accounts and Stores. The major recommendations of the Committee related to operational efficiency, better service standards and product improvement. These included defreezing of posts, reduction in expenditure of overtime, food cost control, reduction of inventories and sundry debtors, evolving marketing strategies for better capacity utilization, repairs and